



BASARA™

Story and Art by **Yumi Tamura**

Vol.8



shōjo

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Yumi Tamura

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Vol. #8

Shôjo Edition

Story and Art by

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Asagi

Once Captain of the Blue King's feared Turquoise Bodyguards, he's sticking with "Tatara" for his own amusement. He's aware "Tatara" is a girl, and unbeknownst to his new "allies," Asagi

is the true Blue King, swapped at birth for his own protection. A mysterious quartet of highly skilled spies secretly aids him in his schemes.



Hijiri

Skilled in battojutsu—the art of the sword—he's leader of the Tengu Faction, a somewhat radical group of young Hongu monks that has chosen to aid "Tatara."



Nachi

Spirited and daring, Nachi is Hijiri's second in command and the son of the head priest at the Great Kumano Hongu Shrine.



Ageha

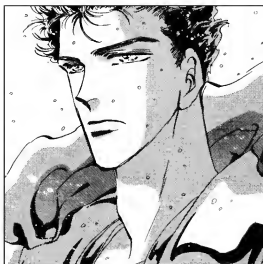
Capable of staying a King's hand and arranging for 1000 head of cattle on short notice, this mysterious desert nomad seems extremely informed and influential. He also has a secret identity—Kicho, a

famous performer among a traveling troupe of dancing ladies. Ageha lost his left eye to the Red King, as payment for his rescue of 12-year-old Sarasa. Now, he is "Tatara's" slightly mercenary ally. Ageha's owl companion, Kagero, carries messages to his contacts.



Sarasa (disguised as Tatara)

Sarasa and her twin brother Tatara were born under a prophecy, and the rebel people of Byakko Village raised Tatara as the "Boy of Destiny." When the Red King's forces killed Tatara, Sarasa secretly took up her brother's name to fight in his guise, not realizing that she is the true child of prophecy. Only visits to hot springs offer Sarasa the privacy to indulge her true identity. There, she has met a curious young man named Shuri, who has become her only outlet for being completely herself.



The Red King

In charge of Midwestern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, he is the youngest of the King of Japan's four sons. Prophesied to bring misfortune, King Ukon branded him a slave. Only a privileged few call him by his name—Shuri. Hounded by threats from abroad and his family, he is a ruthless but effective ruler, crushing those who oppose him. Ignorant of her secret identity and hiding his own, Shuri's interactions with Sarasa reveal hints of his unhealthy family history and his desire to unite Japan in peace. Intent on courting her, he has given Sarasa a whistle to call a carrier parrot so they might write to each other during their travels.



Nagi

Extremely wise, Nagi is the blind prophet who declared the prophecy at the birth of Tatara and Sarasa. Also a priest, a doctor and a teacher, Nagi has educated Sarasa despite others who questioned the wisdom of teaching so much to a girl.



General Kazan

The Red King's devoted military leader, Kazan was conflicted in his loyalty and feelings for Chigusa, which kept her presence secret from the Red King.



Kaku

Byakko Village's military advisor and trainer, Kaku is loyal to Sarasa's family and the cause of the "Boy of Destiny." Kaku is one of the few who knows Sarasa has taken her brother's place.



Chigusa (Sarasa's mother)

Captured after Tatara's death, she was badly abused by the Red King's men until General Kazan "rescued" her. Despite his violence against

her family, she grew to respect Kazan and aided in his ritual suicide.



Senju

Her lady-like demeanor hides this princess' passionate heart. Widowed by "Tatara" after one night with her beloved Shido, the Red King's cousin, she is under the Red King's care so she might keep her unborn child.



Chacha

A strong leader and fighter, this pirate chief is all Sarasa aspires to be. "Tatara's" courage and quick thinking have won Chacha to "his" side.



Sakaki

He rose abruptly from an Army soldier to commander because of his keen eye and intelligence.



Hayato

Descendant of Rasha, leader of the Suzaku, who are allies of Byakko, Hayato is "Tatara's" devoted companion who saved "Tatara" from Shido.



Asho

An advisor to the Red King, he is plainly not as loyal as General Kazan or Sakaki.



In the early 21st century, an apocalypse turns fertile lands into deserts and brings human civilization to its knees. Control of Japan passes into the hands of tyrannical kings. 300 years later, a new hope is born.

At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicts, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village place their hopes in Tatara, their chief's son, raising him as the "Boy of Destiny."

With the tyrannical Ukon XV ruling Japan through his ruthless sons, a better tomorrow can only be achieved through strife and bloodshed. When the "Boy of Destiny" is killed by the Red King's forces, it is up to his twin sister Sarasa to lead their people in his name, or all will be lost.

Sarasa achieves victory over the Red King in Kyushu and the Blue King in Seiran, gaining many allies along the way. But "Tatara's" journey north to search for more allies has been sent astray by Asagi, the manipulative but well informed former Blue King Captain. With the aid of his spies, Asagi learns that the Red King's General Kazan is secretly holding Tatara's mother captive. Worse, he learns "Tatara" is not only a girl but also unknowingly in love with the Red King!

Even with the help of the Tengu Faction, a local gang of rebel monks, "Tatara's" rescue of "his" mother fails. Thanks to Asagi's anonymous warning, General Kazan is prepared for the attempt, though no one is prepared for the arrival of the Red King! Intent on disciplining Kazan, the Red King's forces fight with General Kazan's, creating enough confusion for "Tatara's" forces to narrowly escape.

The retreat is hard won, for not only are Chacha and Zaki gravely injured, but Sarasa's eyes are damaged. Such a high price, and she hasn't found her mother! But there is plenty of anguish to go around, for this crazy conflict costs the Red King the life of his most loyal and trusted advisor, General Kazan...

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AZURE TALE 9: PREMONITION





...EVEN
AFTER
HIS
DEATH.

HE
WANT-
ED TO
FIGHT...

...TO
SERVE
THE
RED
KING...



SIR..?

THAT
IDIOT!



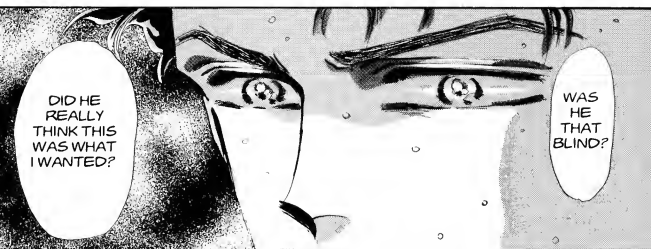
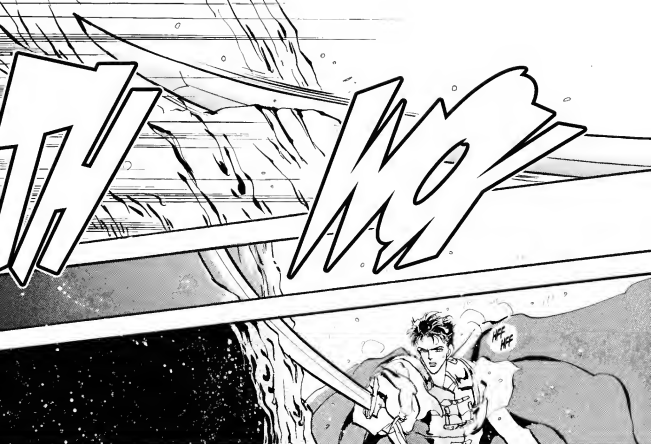
AND
HOW...

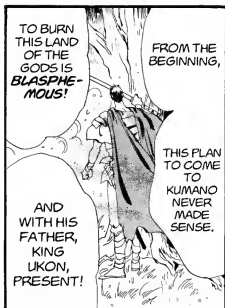
...WILL HE
FIGHT FOR
ME AFTER
DEATH?

AFTER
HE'S
DEAD!?

HOW
WILL
HE BE

ANY
USE
TO
ME--





TO BURN
THIS LAND
OF THE
GODS IS
BLASPHE-
MOUS!

FROM THE
BEGINNING,

THIS PLAN
TO COME
TO KUMANO
NEVER
MADE
SENSE.

AND
WITH HIS
FATHER,
KING
UKON,
PRESENT!



THAT
DESPOT!

HE'S
ONLY
TAKING HIS
FRUSTRATION
OUT ON US!



YEE-
EEE!

THAT
REALLY
HURT!

LORD
ASHO!

LORD
ASHO!



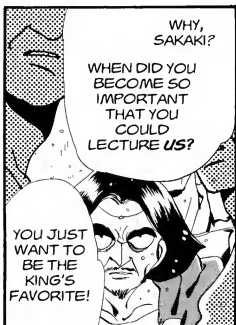
IT IS
THE DUTY
OF HIS MEN
TO HAVE
FAITH IN HIM
AND OBEY!

THE RED
KING HAS
SPOKEN!



THIS
MAY
HAVE
BEEN...

A
COSTLIER
MISTAKE
THAN YOU
THINK.



WHY,
SAKAKI?

WHEN DID YOU
BECOME SO
IMPORTANT
THAT YOU
COULD
LECTURE US?

YOU JUST
WANT TO
BE THE
KING'S
FAVORITE!



KAZAN WAS
THE BEST
WE HAD IN
THE ARMY.

AND
NOW
THE
RED KII
HAS
LOST H

THE MOST
TRUSTWORTHY.
THE MOST
LOYAL.

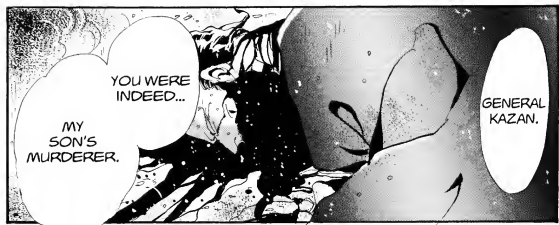


NOW IT'S
MY TURN
TO
COMMAND!

THAT
STUBBORN,
RIGHTEOUS
BASTARD
IS DEAD.



FEH.





THE
ONE
YOU'VE
BEEN
FIGHT-
ING...

...HAS
BEEN MY
DAUGHTER.



YOU
AND
NAGI.

YOU'VE
STAYED BY
HER SIDE
ALL THIS
TIME?



ISN'T
THAT...

GENERAL
KAZAN?



CHIGUSA?



THANK
GOODNESS
YOU'RE
ALIVE!

OLD
KAKU!?

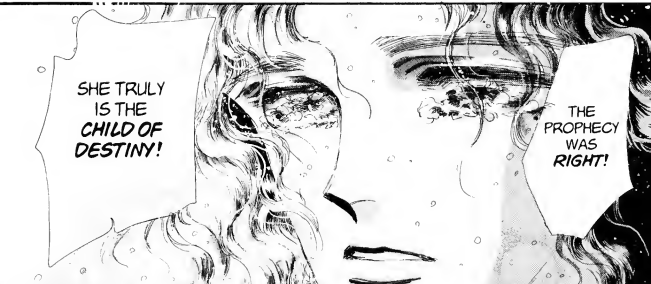
LET ME
GET
OVER
THERE...



BUT NOW
SHE'S BEEN
BLESSED
WITH
COMRADES!

SHE
BEGAN
THIS FIGHT
ALL ON
HER OWN--

YES!



SHE TRULY
IS THE
CHILD OF
DESTINY!

THE
PROPHECY
WAS
RIGHT!



...CHIGU-
SA?



IN
ORDER
TO
SUCCEED,

SHE'LL HAVE
TO GROW
STRONGER.
WILL I ONLY
HOLD HER
BACK?

MY
GIRL
...

SHE STILL
HAS A
LONG
ROAD
AHEAD
OF HER.

COME
WITH
ME!

CHIGUSA!?

I CAN'T
FACE HER
RIGHT
NOW.

NO.

YOU
MUST
LET HER
SEE YOU
WELL--
JUST
ONCE!

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND,
BUT...

I
MIGHT
UNDO...

**EVERY-
THING,**
TURN HER
BACK...
INTO HER
MOTHER'S
GIRL.

IF I
SEE
HER...

IF I
HOLD
HER IN
MY
ARMS...

I DON'T
WANT TO
SHAME
MYSELF
FURTHER.

I'VE
DONE
ENOUGH.

I
ENTRUST
HER...

TO
YOUR
CARE.

PLEASE.
BE
GOOD
TO HER.



THAT
I...

PLEASE
LET
HER
KNOW...

AND I
PROMISE...

THAT I
WILL
WATCH
OVER
HER.

...THAT
HER
MOTHER
WILL BE
STRONG.

JUST
AS SHE
WILL.

ONE
WHERE
FAMILIES
CAN LIVE
IN PEACE.

SHE WILL
HELP
CREATE
A
NEW
WORLD.

I
HOPE,
ONE
DAY
...



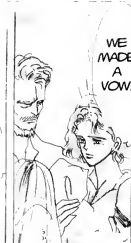
SARASA!

OH,
SARASA.



I KNOW
YOUR FATHER
TREATED
YOU HARSHLY.

IT WAS ALL
TO PROTECT
YOU FROM
HARM.



WE
MADE
A
VOW.

WE
WOULD
PROTECT
YOU...

AND
YOU
ALONE.



NAGI'S
PROPHECY...

WAS THAT
YOU
WERE THE
CHILD OF
DESTINY.



I
WANT
TO
TELL
YOU.

ONE
DAY.



AND YOUR
BROTHER,
TATARA...
WE ALL
LOVED
YOU.

AS
DID
I.

YOUR
FATHER
LOVED
YOU
DEARLY.



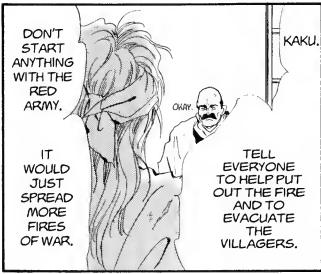
THERE'S
NOTHING
MORE
FOR US
TO DO.

I'M HAPPY
ENOUGH
THAT SHE'S
BEEN
FREED.



YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
TO
LOOK
FOR
HER?

...THAT'S
IT?



DON'T
START
ANYTHING
WITH THE
RED
ARMY.

IT
WOULD
JUST
SPREAD
MORE
FIRES
OF WAR.

OWAY

TELL
EVERYONE
TO HELP PUT
OUT THE FIRE
AND TO
EVACUATE
THE
VILLAGERS.

KAKU.



OH...
ABOUT
TWO TO
THREE
THOUSAND.

EH?

HOW
MANY MEN
DOES
THE RED
KING'S
ARMY
HAVE?

HIJIRI.



YES...
I
LOOKED
THAT
WAY.

SHE
FINISHED
OFF
GENERAL
KAZAN...?

...I
SEE.



I KNOW
IT WAS
HARD
FOR
YOU,
TOO.

THANKS,
KAKU.



I
TRIED
TO
STOP
HER.

...I'M
SORRY.

TUG

MOM
...

BECAUSE
SHE PUT
HER
EMOTIONS
FOR HER
MOTHER
FIRST,

LEADING
US ALL
INTO
THIS...

SHE
CARRIES
IT ALL.

I
DIDN'T
EXPECT
THAT.

I WAS
WORRIED
THAT SHE
WAS
GOING TO
START
CRYING.

YES.

SHE
BLAMES
HERSELF
FOR
EVERY-
THING.

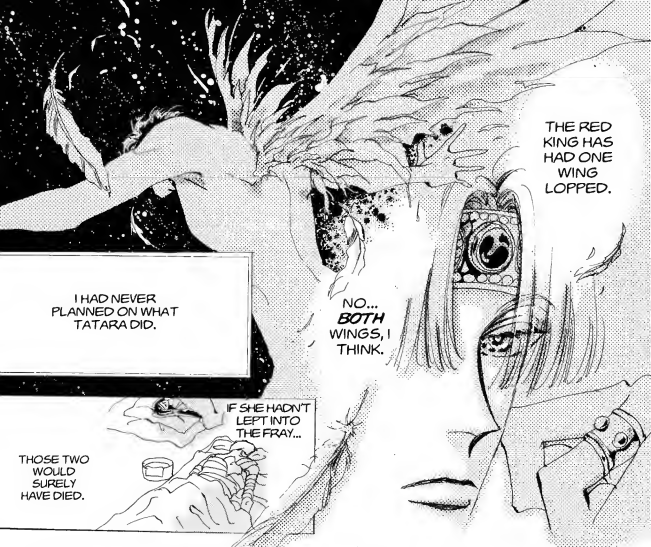
MEDICINE

KAZAN
IS
DEAD.

JUST
AS I
HAD
PLANNED.

TATARA,
YOU
SHOULD
STAY IN
BED.

WANT
SOME
WATER?



THE RED
KING HAS
HAD ONE
WING
LOPPED.

I HAD NEVER
PLANNED ON WHAT
TATARA DID.

NO...
BOTH
WINGS, I
THINK.

IF SHE HADN'T
LEFT INTO
THE FRAY...

THOSE TWO
WOULD
SURELY
HAVE DIED.



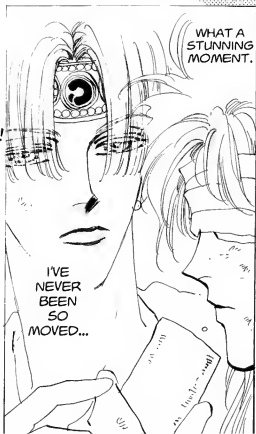
RRMMMM

FSS

CREAK

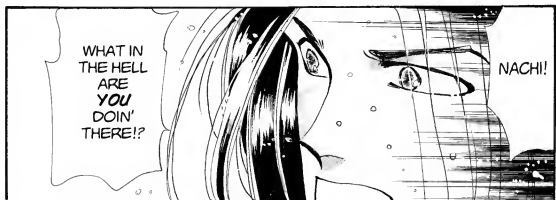
HOH!

...BY SUCH
STUPIDITY!

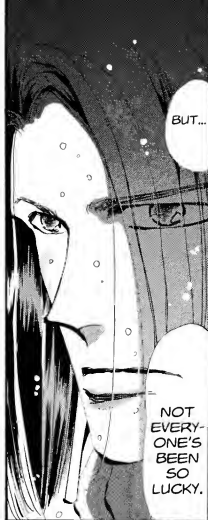


WHAT A
STUNNING
MOMENT.

I'VE
NEVER
BEEN
SO
MOVED...







BUT...

NOT
EVERY-
ONE'S
BEEN
SO
LUCKY.



JUST
THAT...

IT'S A
LUXURY
NEVER
TO HAVE
TO KILL.

YOU'VE HAD
A LOVELY,
SHELTERED
LIFE SO
FAR.



THEY
WENT
TO THE
SHRINE?

HIJIRI
AND
NACHI...



TO THE
SHRINE!

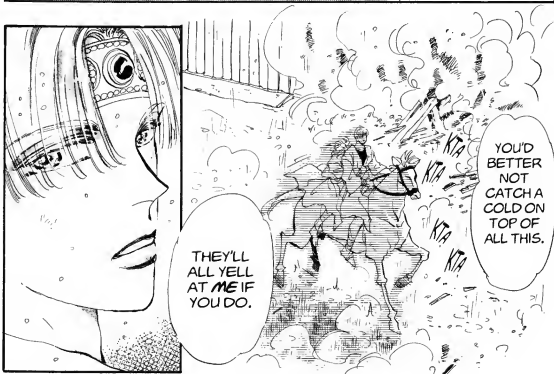
PLASH

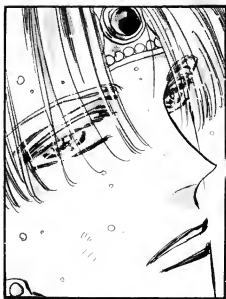


WHERE?

NACHI!

COME
WITH
ME!







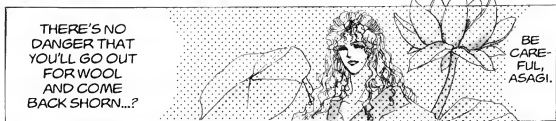
I
HOPE
...

IT CAN
BE LIKE
THAT
AGAIN...



IN
ANCIENT
TIMES,
I HEAR
OUR LIFE
SPANS
WERE
A LOT
LONGER.

I WISH
IT
WERE
LIKE
THAT
NOW.



THERE'S NO
DANGER THAT
YOU'LL GO OUT
FOR WOOL
AND COME
BACK SHORN...?

BE
CARE-
FUL,
ASAGI.



REMEMBER...
THIS BITCH
LOVES SHURI.

HMPH.

AND
HE
LOVES
HER.



SO
HOT.

MY
BACK
FEELS...

SSSH

PA!

KUMANO HONGU SHRINE



PA...

AYE,
IT'S
BEEN
TOO
LONG,
HIJIRI.

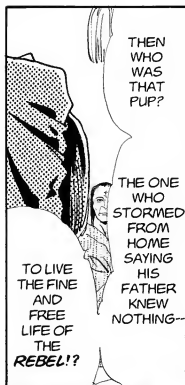
WHAT ARE
THE TWO
RASCALS
DOING
NOW?

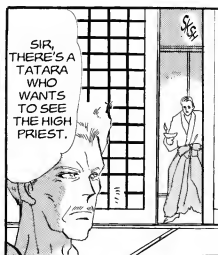
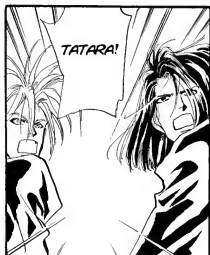
WHERE'S
MY PA-
THE HIGH
PRIEST!?

YOU
WERE
HERE,
TOO?

SKSH









HIM...?

TATARA?



HFF
HFF
HFF



KNOWING
THAT WHAT
I ASK
MAY BE
UNREASON-
ABLE.

I'VE
COME
TO BEG
OF
YOU...



PLEASE
TELL
THE
RED
KING...

THAT
YOU'VE
CHASED
TATARA
OUT.

SO KUMANO
WON'T BE
EXPOSED TO
ANY MORE
DANGER.

WE'LL
GO.

WE'LL
LEAVE THE
MOUNTAIN
IMMEDI-
ATELY
AND
RETURN
TO OUR
SHIP...



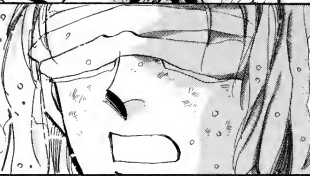
THERE ARE
SOME WHO
ARE
WOUNDED
AND CAN'T
BE MOVED.

BUT
AMONG
US--



LET THE
WOUNDED
REMAIN
HERE.

PLEASE.



FOR
NOW,
AT
LEAST.

LET
THEM
STAY.



IS HE
THE
REASON
...

HIJIRI.

YOU'RE
DOWN
ON
YOUR
KNEES?



TATARA!

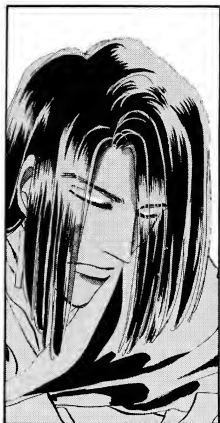
STAY
IN
BED!

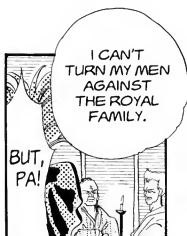
YOU'RE
ONE OF
THE
INJURED
ONES,
FOOL!

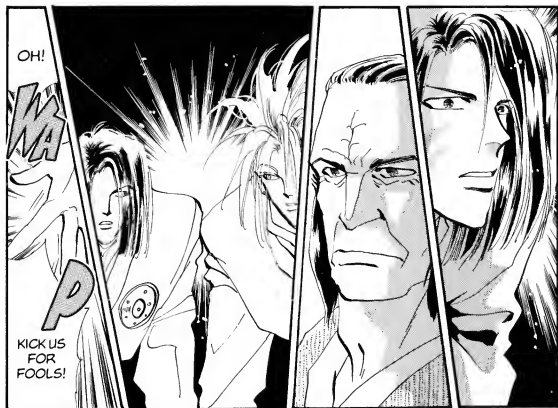


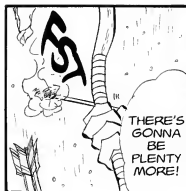
PLEASE...

I
BEG
OF
YOU.









THERE'S GONNA BE PLENTY MORE!



LOTS OF SMOKE, EH? WELL...



IT'S SURELY BURNIN', HIJIRI.



READY ...

THAT IT IS, NACHI.



WOO-HOO!

...AIM AND FIRE!

SHU

SHU





WHY'D YOU
MAKE US BEGIN?

ALL
THESE
SOLDIERS!

YOU'VE
BEEN
WAITIN'
FOR THIS
ALL
ALONG!



WITH
BUT A
WORD...

MY FATHER
LEADS THE
SAIKA AND
NEGORO
CLANS.

THINK OF
'EM AS A
RURAL
YAKUZA.



TATARA...
THERE'S
NOTHING
TO FEAR
NOW.

SO
GET
BACK
TO
BED.





OH?

WHAT'S
MOST
DEAR
TO ME?

TELL
ME,
THEN.



A CUTE
LITTLE
GIRL.



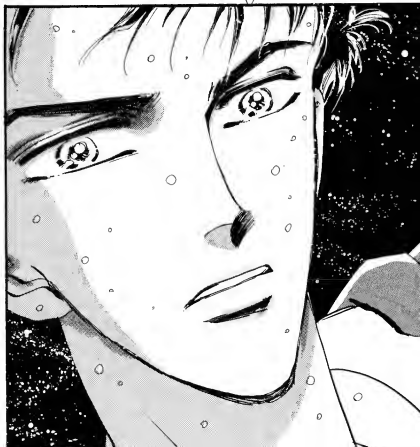
I
THOUGHT
IT
WOULD
BE...

I HAD
AN
IDEA.

INTERESTING
IF I TOOK AWAY
THAT WHICH IS
THE MOST
DEAR
TO YOU.



I'LL
MAKE
HER
MINE.





HAHAHAHAHAHA

ASAGI!

STOP!



NOT
EVEN
CLOSE.

WON'T
IT BE
FUN?



OF
COURSE,
THAT
LITTLE
COUNTRY
BUMPKIN...

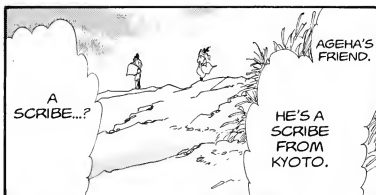
SHE ISN'T
MY TYPE
AT ALL.



SARASA!

KANTO REGION—SEIRAN





AGEHA'S FRIEND.

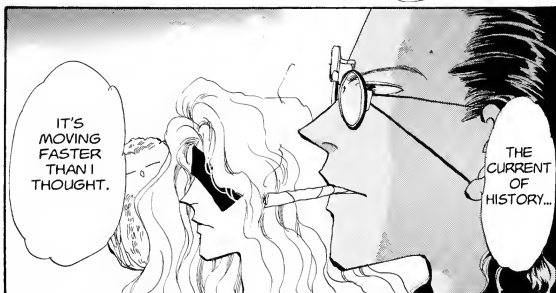
HE'S A
SCRIBE
FROM
KYOTO.

A
SCRIBE...?



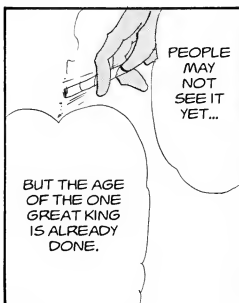
MADAM...
WHO IS
THAT
VISITING
AGEHA?

MADAM BUTTERFLY



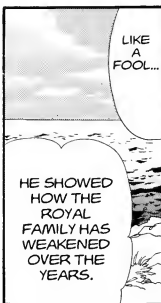
IT'S
MOVING
FASTER
THAN I
THOUGHT.

THE
CURRENT
OF
HISTORY...



PEOPLE
MAY
NOT
SEE IT
YET...

BUT THE AGE
OF THE ONE
GREAT KING
IS ALREADY
DONE.



LIKE
A
FOOL...

HE SHOWED
HOW THE
ROYAL
FAMILY HAS
WEAKENED
OVER THE
YEARS.



HSSSH

IN
KUMANO
...

KING UKON
DIDN'T EVEN
ATTEMPT
TO STOP
THE RED KING,
THOUGH
HE WAS RIGHT
AT THE
SCENE.

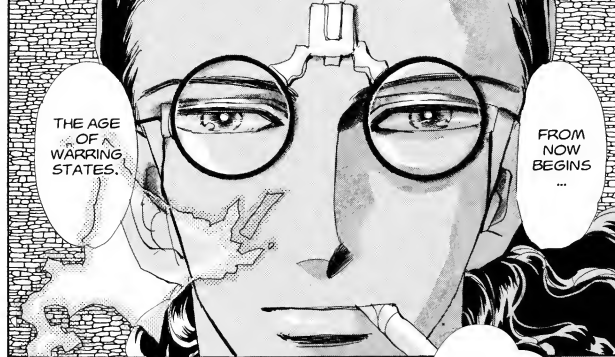


IS USING THIS MESS TO MAKE ITS MOVE AWAY FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY.

KUMANO, SO CLOSE TO KYOTO BOTH GEOGRAPHICALLY AND POLITICALLY...



SLOW AND STEADY, THEY'RE GROWING.



THE AGE OF WARRING STATES.

FROM NOW BEGINS ...

IN THE NORTHEAST, THE KAZUNO CLAN, HOLDERS OF THE GENBU SWORD, AND THE BLACK KING ARE AT A STALEMATE.

ALL THE SKIRMISHES OVER THE YEARS HAVE WORN THE BLACK KING DOWN.



IN KANTO ...

THE COUP D'ETAT LED BY RAIZO AND THE SEIRYU ALLIANCE

HAVE CREATED AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, AT LEAST FOR NOW.

I'M ONLY
A CAREER
SPECTATOR.
SOMEDAY
I'LL WRITE A
RECORD OF
THIS WAR
FOR
POSTERITY.

WILL BE
DETER-
MINED
BY THE
COURSE
HE SETS
NOW.

WHETHER
TATARA'S
GOT
STRENGTH
ENOUGH
TO TAKE
THE
NATION'S
REINS...

IF I HAD TO
THROW IN
MY LOT,
WHICH ONE
WOULD I
PICK?

TATARA
OR THE
RED
KING?

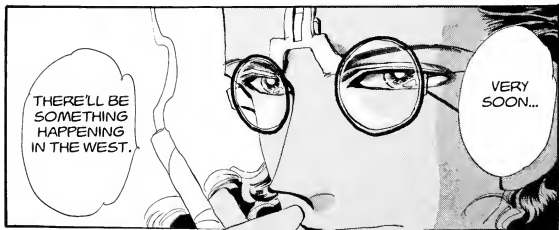
BUT
NOT
YOU,
AGEHA.

WHEN ARE
YOU GOING
TO STEP
TO
CENTER
STAGE?

AND THE
ONE
WHO
HOLDS THE
KEY TO
EVERY-
THING...

...IN MY
EYES...

...IS
YOU,
AGEHA.





JUST
A NAME?
NOTHING
ELSE?

I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ELSE!



A GIRL
CALLED
SARASA.

SHE'S
FIFTEEN
AND **MIGHT**
STILL BE
IN SEIRAN.



SAKA-
KI.

I WANT
YOU TO
LOOK
FOR
SOME-
ONE.

SIR?



DON'T BE
CAUGHT
BY A
BASTARD
LIKE **HIM!**

SARASA.

SARASA!

DON'T
BE
CAUGHT
...

VERDIGRIS TALE 1: LOST THRONE



...THE
MOST
DEAR
TO YOU.

I'LL TAKE
AWAY
THAT
WHICH IS...



A CUTE
LITTLE
GIRL.



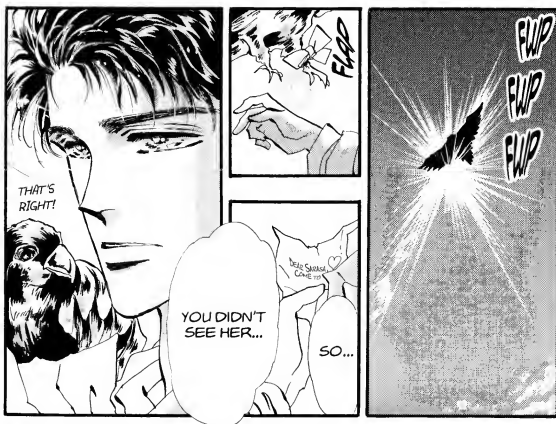
SARASA...



**VERDIGRISTALE 1:
LOST THRONE**

ONEEEEET





TINY TAM-TAM TIME ①

I found out through some letters that:

Lots of people thought Hijiri
was a girl!

D-did he look girly?☹

And people thought Zaki died!☹

I guess I just couldn't draw it right!☹
I'm sorry!



So, well, he's a guy. They're both about eighteen or nineteen.

TAMU

SARASA'S JOURNEY



SUO CITY



UNDERGROUND WATERWAY
CONSTRUCTION SITE

HOW
LONG
WILL IT
TAKE TO
COM-
PLETE?

THE SOIL
IS SOFT,
SO IT'S
DIFFICULT
TO BURY
THE ROCKS.

WELL...
ABOUT
A YEAR.

WE'VE
CARVED
A
CHANNEL
FROM
SANIN...

WE'RE
MANAG-
ING.

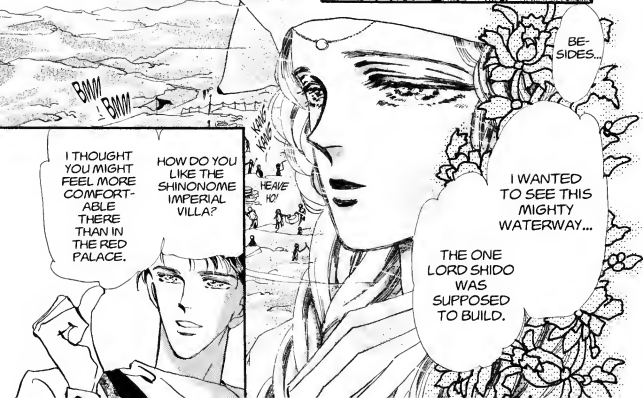
I SEEM TO
BE CUT OUT
FOR THIS
MORE THAN
THE BATTLE-
FIELD.

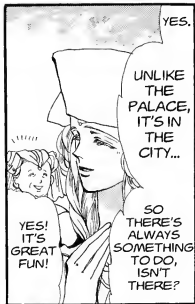
SAKAKI.

SIRE!

OUT
FOR A
VISIT?

HOW'S IT
COMING?







LIFT!

RRR

ON MY MARK!

PULL HIM OUT!



UNDER THIS SCORCHING SUN,

DOING WORK WE'RE NOT USED TO...

MORALE IS LOW, SIRE!

OUT OF THE WAY!



YAAAAA

OWWW

ARE YOU HURT!?

M-MY LEG!

OW!

EEEE!



SAKAKI! CALL THE MEDICAL TEAM!

YOU NEED A DOCTOR!

TUG



LET ME SEE YOUR LEG!

OH, STOP IT!

SHMP



SIRE!

AH!

THE RED KING!?

I'M SORRY!



ALL
RIGHT.

I HAVE
A
IDEA.

**LISTEN
UP!**

I'M NOT
TELLING YOU
TO BUILD
SOME
USELESS
MONUMENT!

YOU'RE
BUILDING
THIS
WATERWAY
TO
BENEFIT
**YOUR-
SELVES!**

WHY
DOES
EVERY-
ONE
LOOK
SO
TIRED?

WHAT'S
WITH
THIS
SORRY
LOT?

UH...



THEN YOU'LL
BE ABLE
TO TAKE
SOME PRIDE
IN YOUR
WORK!

EACH TEAM
WILL BE
RESPON-
SIBLE
FOR ONE
AREA!

WE'LL SPLIT
EVERYONE
INTO
TEAMS!



**WE'LL
WIN IT!**
YEAH!
YAY!

SIRE
...

YES!
THAT'S
A
PROM-
ISE!

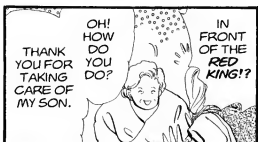
I WANT
YOU TO
CARE
ABOUT
FINISH-
ING
THIS!

A-ARE
YOU
SURE,
SIRE?



TO THE
TEAM THAT
FINISHES
THE FIRST--
IF THE JOB
IS GOOD--

I OFFER 100
TIMES
YOUR PAY!





SIRE!

OH!

WE JUST
GOT A
GREAT
CATCH OF
TUNA!

OUR
CITY.
SUD.

IT'S A
GOOD
PLACE

RIPE
TOMA-
TOES!

HOW
ABOUT
SOME OF
OUR
LOBSTER?

WE GOT IT
SHIPPED FRESH!

SHALL
I SEND
SOME
TO THE
PALACE?

PRINCESS
... DID YOU
WISH TO
SPEAK
TO THE
KING?

... NO.

SARASA.

I WISH
YOU
COULD
COME.

I'D LIKE
TO
SHOW IT
TO YOU.

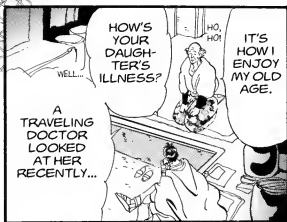
I DON'T
THINK
HE'D
BELIEVE
ME...

... IF I
TOLD HIM
THAT I
FEEL...
DANGER.

OLD
MAN!

UNCLE
DUMPL
& BU
SHO

ARE
YOU
IN?







ALL THE
GOOD
THINGS
ARE
SLIPPING
AWAY...

THROUGH
MY
FINGERS...



LIKE SO
MANY
GRAINS
OF
SAND...





I
HAVEN'T
MADE A
MISTAKE.

NOT
IN
ONE
THING.



DEFEAT
TATARA.

BUILD A CITY.
ESTABLISH
A WATERWAY.

AND
ONE DAY
TAKE
ALL OF
JAPAN
FOR
MYSELF.

FEND
OFF MY
BROTHERS
AND MY
FATHER.

AND
WHEN I
FIND
YOU...

I'LL HOLD
YOU TIGHT
IN MY
ARMS...

I WANT TO SEE
YOU, SARASA.

SO
MUCH
THAT I
WOULD
GO OUT
LOOK-
ING
FOR YOU
MYSELF
IF I
COULD.

SARASA...

WHAT
WOULD
YOU
SAY?

IF YOU
WERE
HERE...

OR
PERHAPS...

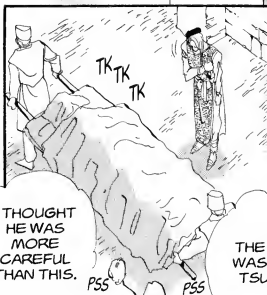
I'M JUST
BITTER AT
ASAGI'S
THREAT.

...THAT HE
MIGHT
TAKE HER
AWAY.

...AND
NEVER
LET
YOU
GO.

I DIDN'T
THINK I
FELT SO
MUCH
FOR HER.

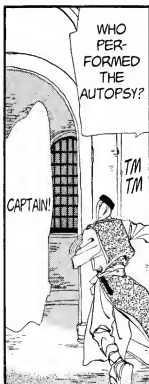
STRANGE...



I THOUGHT
HE WAS
MORE
CAREFUL
THAN THIS.

THE BODY
WAS LORD
TSUBAKI.

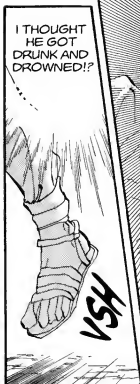




WHO PERFORMED THE AUTOPSY?

CAPTAIN!

TM
TM



I THOUGHT HE GOT DRUNK AND DROWNED!?

USA



A STAB WOUND!?



THAT'S OUR CHANCE.

HE'LL WANT TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CITY.

THE RED KING WILL SOON VISIT THE SHINO-NOME VILLA.

WE'D BETTER HURRY, NOW THAT THE BODY HAS BEEN FOUND.



CAP ...



ATTACKING LATE AT NIGHT WILL BE SAFE.

THEN WE CAN GET HIM.

THE PALACE IS TOO BIG AND TROUBLE-SOME.

THE VILLA IS A CONVENIENT SIZE TO SURROUND.



ARE
THEY
TALKING
ABOUT
...?



WHAT
IN
THE
WORLD
...



ALL
THE
KING'S
AIDES
...



WHAT IS
THIS
ABOUT!?



LORD
SAKA-
KI.

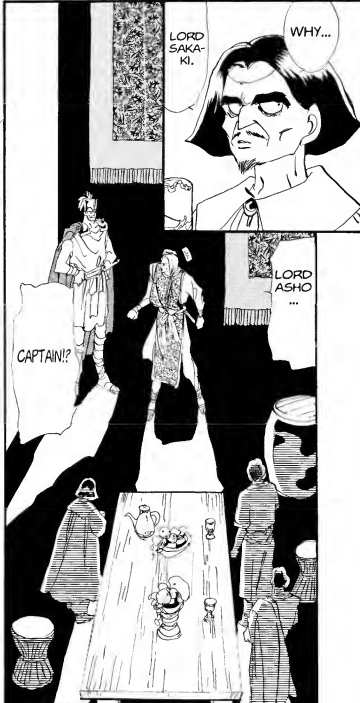
WHY...



WHAT IS
THIS
ABOUT!?



LORD
ASHO
...



CAPTAIN!?



WHAT
IS
THIS
ABOUT?

TNK

WE'RE
BRINGING
DOWN
THE
TRAITOR.



THE
BLUE
KING IS
BEHIND
US.

AND
KING
UKON
...

WILL
STAND
BY US
AS WELL.



NO-
THING
TO BE
ASHAMED
ABOUT.

IT IS
OUR
DUTY...

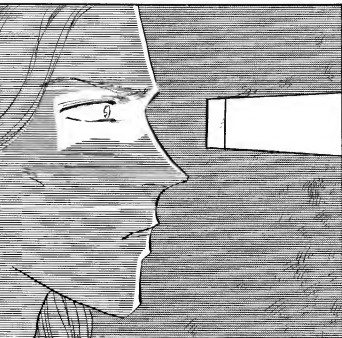
TO
DEPOSE
HIM.

THE RED
KING DARES
TO FIRE AT
KING UKON.

THAT
MAKES HIM
TRAITOR
ENOUGH.

THIS IS
TREASON!

BRING
DOWN
THE
RED
KING!?





MOTHER!

YOU
SHOULD
THINK OF
HER
FIRST.

THEY SAY
SHE'S
YOUR
ONLY
FAMILY.



LORD
SAKAKI
...?

AFTER
THE
DEED
IS
DONE...



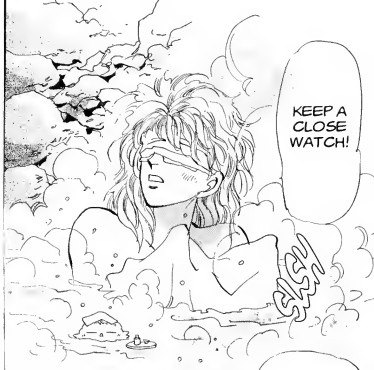
THE
BLUE KING
WILL
REWARD
YOU
SUITABLY.





MASTER
NAGI,
TELL ME
HONESTLY.

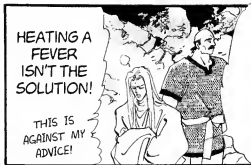
SHE
WON'T
GO
BLIND,
WILL
SHE?



KEEP A
CLOSE
WATCH!



I DON'T
KNOW
IF I CAN
DO
ANYTHING.



HEATING A
FEVER
ISN'T THE
SOLUTION!

THIS IS
AGAINST MY
ADVICE!

THE TSUBO
SPA IN
YUNOMINE
SUPPOSEDLY
WORKS
WONDERS
ON MANY
DISEASES,
BUT...



IT WAS
A JOKE.
YOU KNOW,
MITSUO
BASHO...

GREAT!
WHERE
IS HE?

HE OFTEN
WANDERS
TO KYOTO
OR SUO...
WHO
KNOWS
WHERE
HE IS
NOW?

I DON'T
KNOW...
HE LIKES
TO DRIFT
AROUND...



THE
HAIKU
POET?

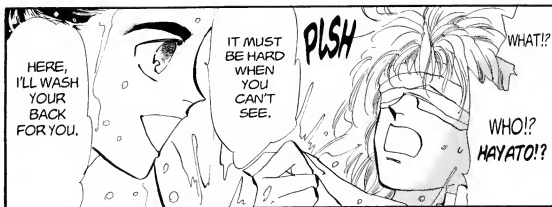
DON'T
BE
DIFFICULT.

HE'S MY
TEACHER.



HOW
BAD
IS IT
IF YOU
HAVE
DOUBTS?

I WISH DR.
BASHO
COULD
SEE HER...



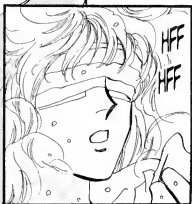


HERE
YOU
GO.

SHFF

TATARA,
I'LL GO
GET US
OUR
DINNER!

PLSH
PLSH
WH-HOO!



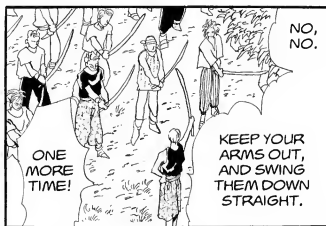
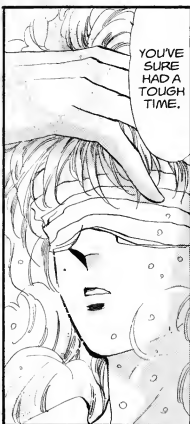
HFF
HFF

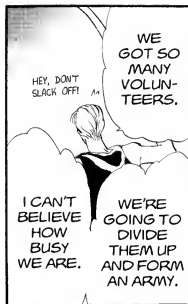


AGEHA
....?

YOU
DON'T
WANT
ANYONE
TO SEE,
DO YOU?







HEY, DON'T
SLACK OFF!

WE
GOT SO
MANY
VOLUN-
TEERS.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HOW
BUSY
WE ARE.

WE'RE
GOING TO
DIVIDE
THEM UP
AND FORM
AN ARMY.



TATARA
KNOWS
HOW TO
MOTIVATE
HIM, TOO.

PFFT

LOOK AT
HOW TANNED
YOU'VE
BECOME.
YOU LOOK
ALMOST
HEALTHY.



TATARA
SAID I'M
THE
BEST...

SO HE
TOLD ME
TO TEACH
EVERY-
ONE THE
SWORD.



...CONTRARY
TO YOUR
INTENTIONS.

GOOD
TO
HEAR.

NOT
ONLY
THAT...

BUT YOU'RE
GOING TO
END UP
IMPROVING
TATARA'S
CHARACTER,
TOO.



YOU HAD TO
GO WASH YOUR
HANDS EVERY
TIME YOU
EVEN TOUCHED
THE BLUE KING.

HARD TO
BELIEVE
YOU'RE
LIVING
AMONG
THIS
ROWDY
CROWD.



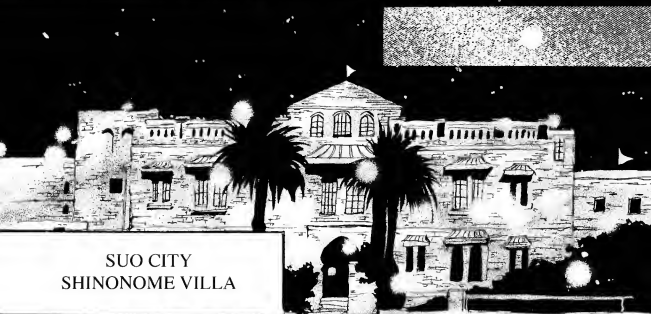
I CAN
IMPROVE
MY CHAR-
ACTER,
TOO,
YOU
KNOW.



...FROM
YOUR
HEAVEN-
SENT
CHILD!

PLEASE,
HANDS
OF
FATE.

DON'T
TAKE
THE
LIGHT
...



SUO CITY
SHINONOME VILLA



SARA-
SA?

EEE!



ZZZ

MMM.

SVRT.

SIRE.



SIRE.







LET'S
GO!

KING
UKON
DEMANDS
IT!

RIGHTEOUS-
NESS!

JUSTICE!
THEY'RE ON
OUR SIDE!

DEATH
TO THE
TRAITOR!

S-SIRE...



YOU
ARE
A
MAN
!? ...!

ALAS,
SO.



ASHO'S
MAID
IN WAIT-
ING...

NO
...



RED KING,
PREPARE
TO DIE!

ZZP



IT WAS
THE
BLUE
KING,
WASN'T
IT!?

THE
ONE WHO
PLOTTED
THIS...

ASHO
WOULDN'T
HAVE THE
GUTS TO
DO THIS!

I
SEE.

YOU'RE
ONE OF
THOSE
... LIKE
ASAGI!

BAM

ZZD

HEH.
HEH.



SASAKI?

YOU,
TOO
...



HEH
HEH



SIRE!

PREPARE
YOUR-
SELF!

YOU
FOOL!



SIRE!

PRINCESS,
ESCAPE,
HURRY!

YOU'RE A
GUEST
AND HAVE
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH THIS.



YES,
SIR!

PROTECT THE
PRINCESS WITH
YOUR LIVES!
GO THROUGH
THE WEST
GARDEN!

GO,
NOW!



HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF

WHY
!?

SAKAKI--

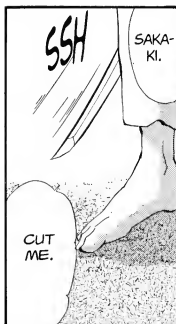
WHAT
IS
THIS!?

WHY DID
YOU
SIDE
WITH
ASHO!?

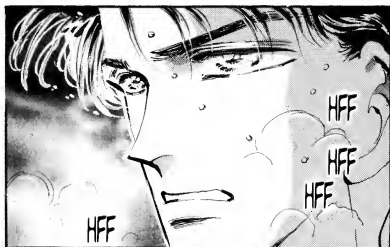
WERE
YOU
GOING
TO LET
ME **KILL**
YOU!?

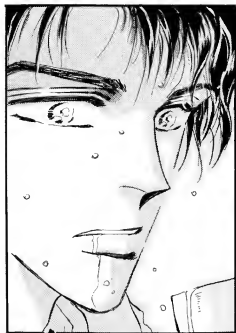
SAKAKI













SIRE...

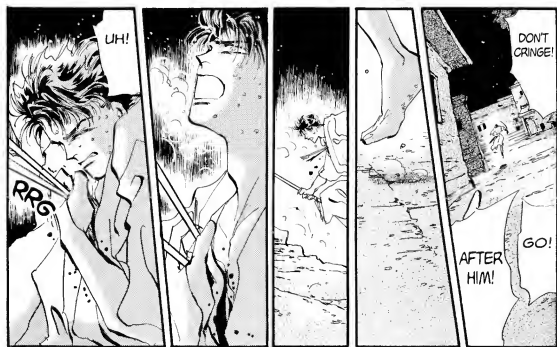
BUT MY
DAUGHTER'S
LIFE--
IT'S TOO
PRECIOUS!

FOR-
GIVE
ME!



AAH...







I HAVE
NO
ONE.

HA...

NO
ONE.

I'M ALL
ALONE.

WHERE
...

NOW
—

SPLOK

UNH!



TO
WHOM
...?

WHERE
...TO
WHOM...

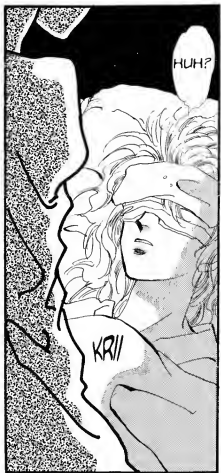
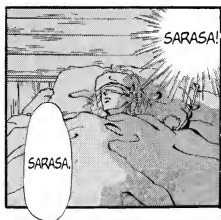
HFF

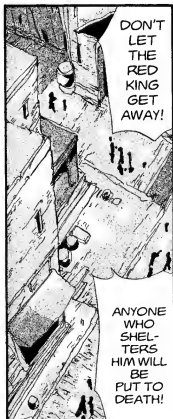
HFF

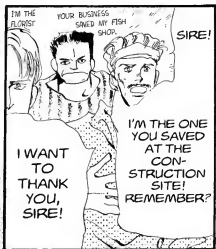
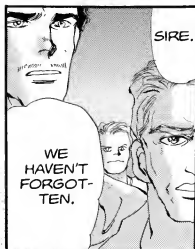
HFF

I
HAVE
NO-
THING
...

SHOULD
I
TURN?









WE LOVE
THIS CITY.

VERY
MUCH.



DON'T
TOUCH
ME!
I DON'T
NEED
YOUR
PITY!

DON'T!

YOUR
WOUNDS!

SIRE
...



WITHOUT
PEER
IN THE
WORLD...

I AM
THE
KING!

I DON'T
NEED
YOUR
SYMPATHY.

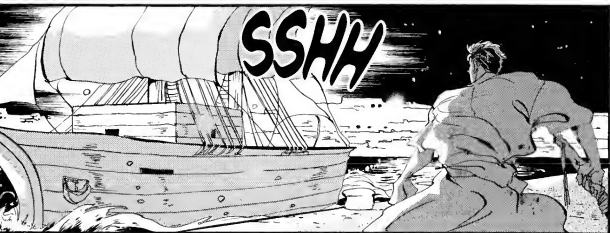
DON'T
HELP
ME!



SIRE!



I AM
THE
KING!



SSHH



PLSX

WHAT'S
THIS?

HO!

YOU CAN'T
JUST
BOARD
OUR SHIP.



WATAP!

SSSH



TM





WHAT!?



WHO
IS
IT!?

LET ME
GO!

LET
ME
GO!

WHO'S
THERE!?





VERDIGRIS TALE 2:
A NEW LAND



SARASA...

I
THOUGHT
I HEARD
SHURI
CALLING
MY NAME
FROM
SOMEWHERE
FAR AWAY.

FOR A
MOMENT...

IN MY
DREAM...
HE
SOUNDED
AS IF
HE WERE
ABOUT
TO CRY.



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ②

TAM-TAM Q&A: Why are Kumano people the only ones with accents?

The people of Kumano have probably lived there for generations. That could be true in the north, too.

I don't really know...



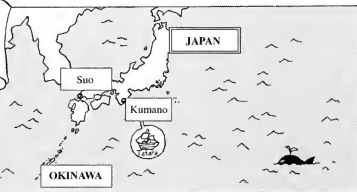
But the inhabitants of the West died out, so people from other places moved in. That's why their language is homogenized.

Ditto for Kyoto: the indigenous residents probably speak with a Kyoto accent, but the Royal Family moved in from elsewhere.

TAMU

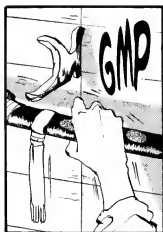
SARASA'S JOURNEY

THE CONTINENT







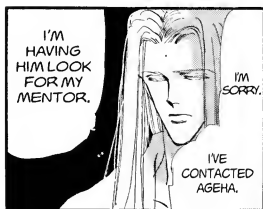




NAGI
...

MAKE MY
EYES
BETTER,
SOON.

PLEASE.



I'M
HAVING
HIM LOOK
FOR MY
MENTOR.

I'M
SORRY.

I'VE
CONTACTED
AGEHA.



TATARA.

NO...

PUT THE
SWORD
DOWN.

I
KNOW
YOU'RE
ANXIOUS,

BUT
LISTEN
TO ME.



TA-
TARA...

HUH.

I DIDN'T
SEE
ANYONE
SUS-
PICIOUS.



PLEASE...

MAKE
THEM
BETTER.



IT TAKES
COURAGE TO
TURN BLOWS
INTO
BLESSINGS.

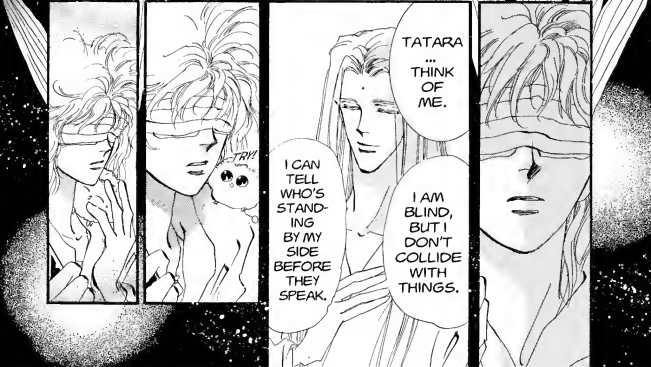
WE CAN ALL
GIVE IN TO
PESSIMISM
WHEN FATE
TURNS
AGAINST
US.



TAKE
THIS AS
A TIME
TO
SHARPEN
YOUR
OTHER
SENSES.

BECOME
MORE
AWARE
OF WHAT
IS
AROUND
YOU.

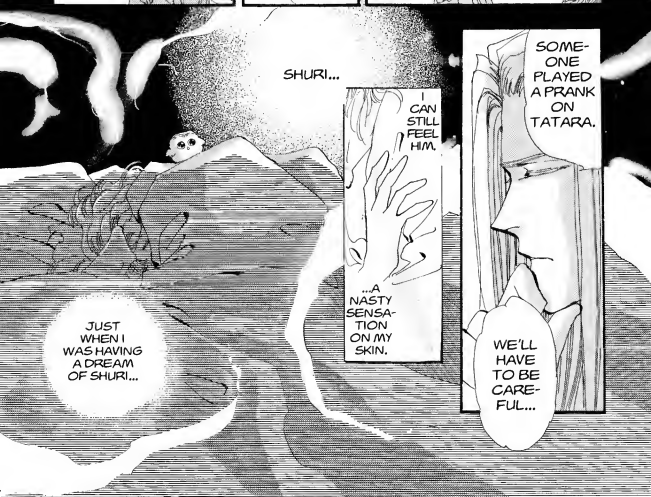
YOU'VE
LOST
YOUR
SENSE
OF SIGHT
FOR NOW.



TATARA
...
THINK
OF
ME.

I CAN
TELL
WHO'S
STAND-
ING
BY MY
SIDE
BEFORE
THEY
SPEAK.

I AM
BLIND,
BUT I
DON'T
COLLIDE
WITH
THINGS.



SHURI...

I CAN STILL FEEL HIM.

...A NASTY SENSATION ON MY SKIN.

SOME-ONE PLAYED A PRANK ON TATARA.

WE'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL...

JUST WHEN I WAS HAVING A DREAM OF SHURI...



THIS WAY!

WSH

SWISH

"DR.
BASHO
APPEARS
TO HAVE
GONE TO
OKINAWA."

TUG

AND
HURRY!

DELIVER
THIS
LETTER
TO
TATARA IN
KUMANO.

ALL RIGHT,
KAGERO.

AND
YET...

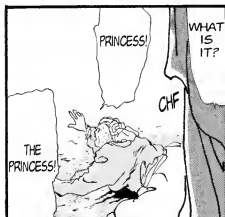
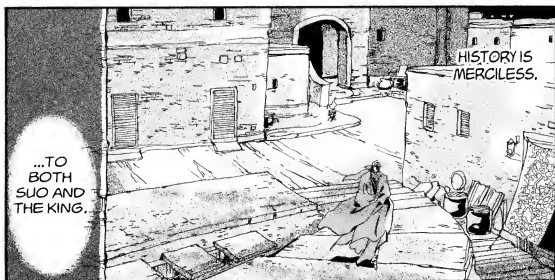
I NEVER
THOUGHT
THE
RED KING
WOULD BE
FINISHED
HERE...
IN SUO CITY.

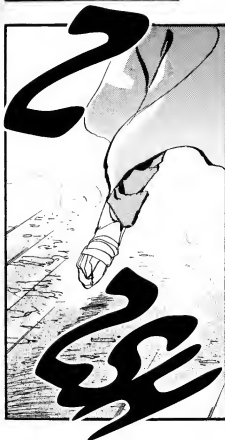
THIS IS A
SERIOUS TURN
OF EVENTS,
INDEED.

SOME-
THING
WILL
HAPPEN
IN THE
WEST.

VERY
SOON...

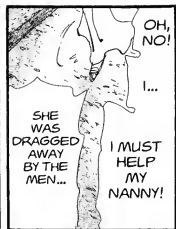
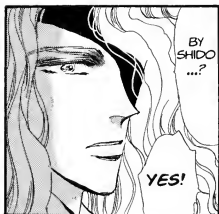
JUST AS
TARO
PREDICTED.

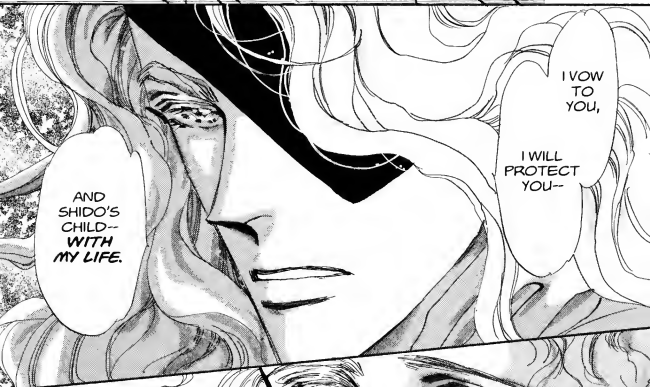












H.M.

I DON'T
KNOW,
BUT I
HAVEN'T
HEARD THAT
THEY'VE GOT
HIS HEAD...

DID
THE
RED KING
ESCAPE...?



254

A
NAVY
SHIP.

THEY'RE
TELLING
US TO
STOP SO
THEY CAN
INSPECT
OUR
CARGO!

DR
BASHO!

WHAT
IS
IT?

MEDICINE

H.M.

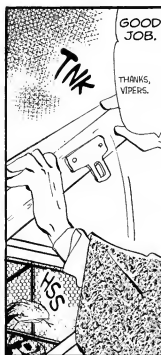
WELL,
THERE
YOU
GO.

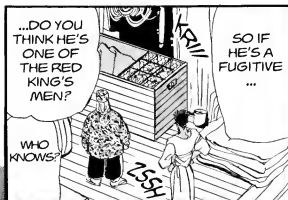
TUG

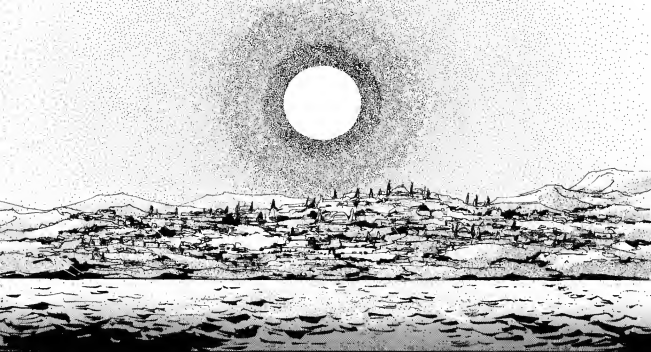
DON'T
MOVE
YOUR ARM
FOR
AWHILE.











HA,
HA,
HA,
HA!

YES!

IT FEELS
SO RIGHT
TO SIT
UPON A
THRONE!



BM
IBM
BM

LORD
ASHO!

A...

WHAT!?
SO
SOON!?

AN
ENVOY
OF
KING
UKON!



HMM
...
I
WON-
DER
...

PERHAPS
HE'S
DEAD AND
COLD
SOME-
WHERE.



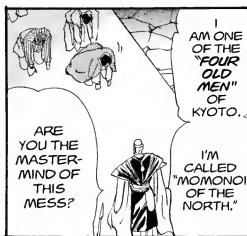
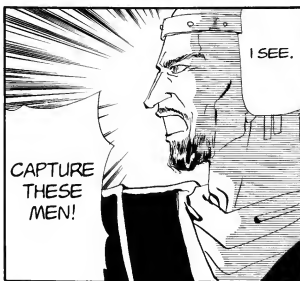
HAVEN'T
YOU
FOUND
THE RED
KING YET?

NO,
SIR...

BUT HE
COULDN'T
HAVE GONE
TOO FAR
WITH THAT
WOUND.



HA
HA
HA
HA!



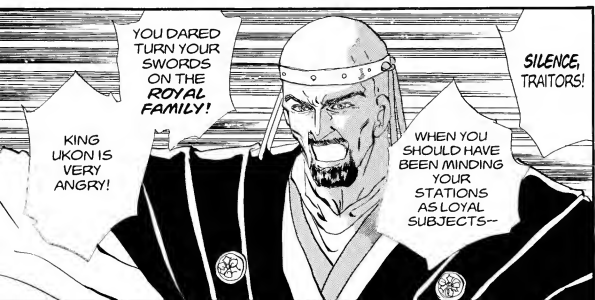


WHA--

EH!?

WE WERE
CERTAIN THE
KING WOULD
REWARD US
FOR THIS!

WHY ARE
YOU
DOING
THIS!?



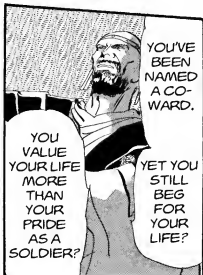
YOU DARED
TURN YOUR
SWORDS
ON THE
ROYAL
FAMILY!

KING
UKON IS
VERY
ANGRY!

SILENCE,
TRAITORS!

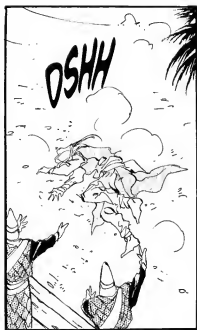
WHEN YOU
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN MINDING
YOUR
STATIONS
AS LOYAL
SUBJECTS--







DON'T SHOW
YOUR FACE
AROUND
HERE AGAIN!



STOP!

MY SON
WAS
JUST...

PLEASE,
STOP!



MOM.

IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.



COWARD!

UN-
GRATEFUL
DOG!

YOU'RE
BETTER
OFF
DEAD! **GET HIM!**



HEY!

IT'S
SAKAKI.

AFTER ALL
THE RED
KING DID
FOR HIM...



I MUST
BUILD THE
AQUEDUCT.

I
HAVE
A
JOB.



RIGHT
HERE.



I'LL
WAIT
FOR
YOU...



Ukk
Ukk



SKF



RED
KING!

I'LL BE
AWAITING
YOUR
RETURN...



THAT'S RIGHT...

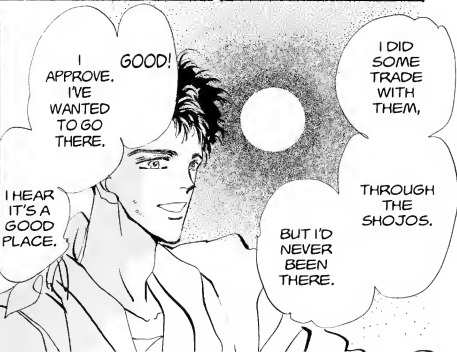
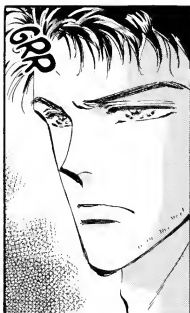
YES...













I'M
PENNILESS.

BUT
NOW...



I WANTED
TO SEE
YOU IN A
WEDDING
DRESS.



THEY'RE
NAGI!
AND
HIJIRI.

THOSE
FOOT-
STEPS.

DMDMDM
TP TP TP

OH...



FOUR
STEPS
FROM THE
BED TO
THE DOOR.

THREE
TO THE
WATER
PITCHER.



THREE.

FOUR
STEPS.

80
STEPS.



I HEAR
THE CALL
FOR
SWORD
PRACTICE.

IT MUST
BE
LUNCH-
TIME.

IT SMELLS
LIKE
ROASTING
FISH.



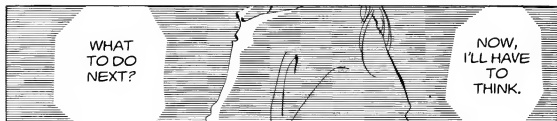
I CAN TELL
MANY THINGS
WITHOUT
SEEING.

YOU WERE
RIGHT, NAGI.



HIJIRI
TREADS
MORE
QUIETLY
WHEN HE
WALKS IN
FRONT OF
MY ROOM.

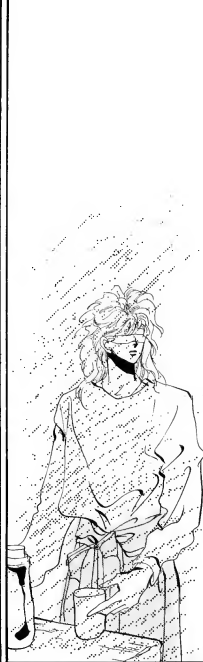
HE'S
BEING
NICE.





...WHAT

...?



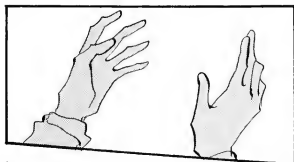
THE
RED
KING--

HE'S
BEEN
DEPOSED!

BUT THERE'S
BEEN A
COUP D'ETAT
AMONG
HIS MEN,
AND THEY'VE
OVERTHROWN
HIM!

THE
LETTER
DOESN'T
MENTION
ANY
DETAILS,
SO WE
DON'T
KNOW
IF HE'S
DEAD
OR
ALIVE.





TATARA...

DAD.

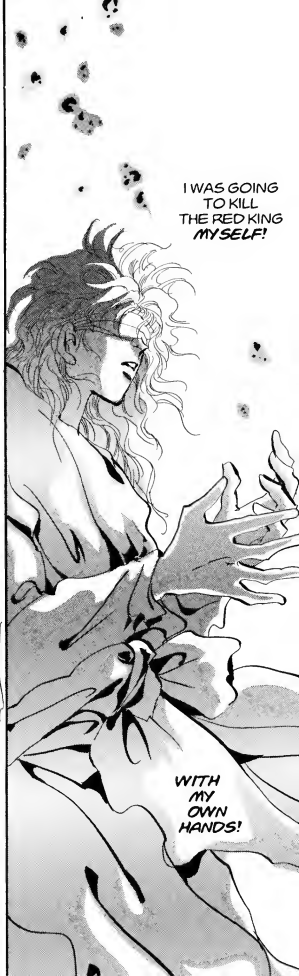
THIS
CAN'T
BE.

TA-
TARA.

THIS
CAN'T
BE!

THE
RED
KING
...

NO...



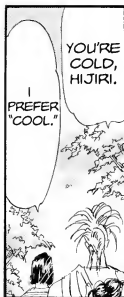
I WAS GOING
TO KILL
THE RED KING
MYSELF!

WITH
MY
OWN
HANDS!

THE RED KING...



...IS
GONE.

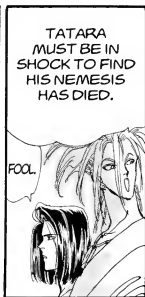


YOU'RE
COLD,
HIJIRI.

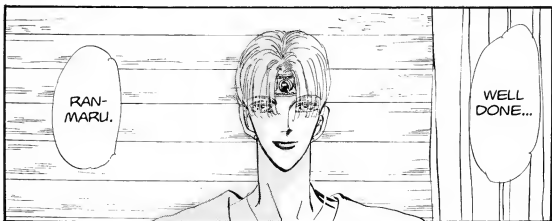


IF
THAT'S
ALL IT
TAKES
TO
SHOCK
HIM--

THEN I
GIVE UP
ON HIM.



FOOL.



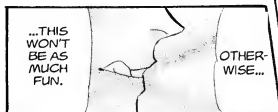
WELL
DONE...



POOR
SHURI.

HE HAD
SO MUCH
PRIDE.





HA
HA
HA
HA!

SERVES
HIM
RIGHT!

I WON
THE
FIRST
ROUND!

VICTORY
IS
MINE!



I STILL
HAVE
WAYS
TO
KNOCK
YOU
DOWN.

COME
CRAWLING
BACK,
SHURI.



I'LL HAVE
MADE
HER
MINE!

OF
COURSE
BY
THEN...

I LOOK
FORWARD
TO
REVEALING
TO YOU
THAT YOUR
BELOVED
SARASA...

IS
ALSO
YOUR
HATED
ENEMY
TATARA.



LET'S GO
TO
OKINAWA.

TATARA.



IT'S AN
ARCHIPELAGO
OUTSIDE OF
JAPAN,

WHERE'S
OKINAWA?

AN ISLAND
NATION
LOCATED
FAR TO THE
SOUTH...

WELL
PAST
KYUSHU.



IN HIS
NOTE...

LET'S
GO SEE
HIM
SO HE
CAN
TREAT
YOUR
EYES.

AGEHA
MENTIONED
THAT MY
MENTOR
WENT TO
OKINAWA.



OKI-
NAWA?

BONUS TAM-TAM TIME:
SHINBASHI'S DAY

TAMU

夜

NIGHT: WAKE UP

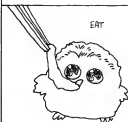
BLINK.



EAT



EAT



EAT



朝

MORNING: SLEEP



HE CAN'T SEE
ANYMORE, SO WHAT
ELSE?

...BLESSSED
BY THE
BOUNTIES
OF NATURE,

SO
THEY
SAY.

IT
THRIVES
ON TRADE
WITH THE
NATIONS
ON THE
CONTINENT.

OKINAWA
IS A
LAND OF
PEACE
AND
PLENTY...

LONG
AGO,
IT WAS
PART OF
JAPAN.

BUT NOW
THERE
ARE NO
FORMAL
DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS.



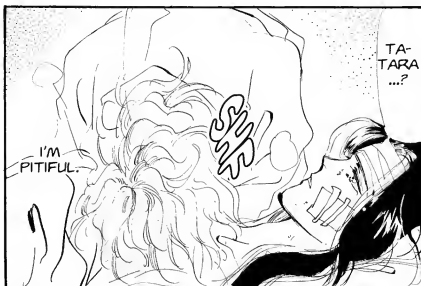
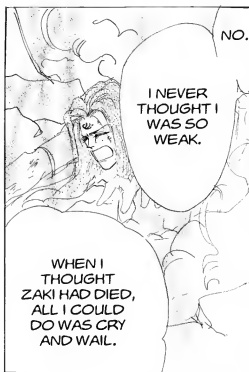
TATARA.

IF YOU'RE
JUST GOING
TO LIE ABOUT
ALL DAY, WHY
DON'T YOU
GO SEE HER?

YOU
SHOULD
GET
OUT.

CHACHA WANTS
TO SEE YOU.
ZAKI IS STILL
UNCONSCIOUS.



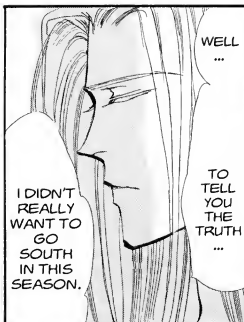








...
WHAT?



WELL
...

I DIDN'T
REALLY
WANT TO
GO
SOUTH
IN THIS
SEASON.

TO
TELL
YOU
THE
TRUTH
...



SO
WE'RE
THE ONES
GOING
TO
OKINAWA.

MASTER
NAGI?
YOU LOOK
TROUBLED.



MY
EYES
WILL
BE
CURED.

ONCE I
GET TO
THAT
ISLAND

I FEEL
LIKE
SOMETHING
GOOD
WILL
HAPPEN
THERE...

OKINAWA
SOUNDS
LIKE A
PARADISE.



YOU
KNOW
A LOT
ABOUT
THE
KANTO
REGION.

YOU
CAN'T
COME
WITH
ME.

IT'S
HIM!

HOO
HOO

THAT'S
WHY I'M
LEAVING
YOU IN
CHARGE
THERE.



I WANT
TO GO
WITH
YOU,
TATARA.



TATARA

I'M
GOING
WITH
YOU TO
OKI-
NAWA.

ZSSH

ASAGI?



SORRY.

I DON'T
LEAN
THAT
WAY.



I'VE
COME
TO
CARE
ABOUT
YOU.

I WANT
TO BE
WITH
YOU
ALWAYS.

SO IT
WAS ASAGI
WHO
ASSAULTED
ME...?



NAGI
SETS
MY
NERVES
ON
EDGE.

IS HE
KEEPING
WATCH
ON ME!?

I'LL HAVE
TO DO
SOME-
THING
ABOUT HIM.

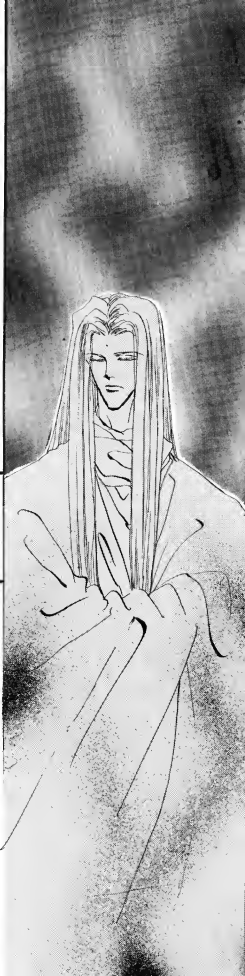
I'D WANTED
TO GO TO
OKINAWA...

BUT OH,
WELL.

IT'S
COMFORTABLE
HERE.

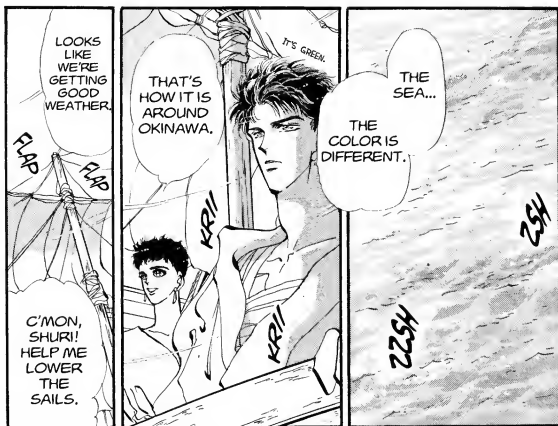
I'LL USE
THE
CHANCE
TO
SPREAD
MY
ROOTS.

SO
WHILE
TATARA'S
GONE...





VERDIGRIS TALE 3:
HURRICANE



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ③

I just got an incredible award called the Shogakukan Manga award. I'm so happy it scares me! This is all thanks to everyone's support! I got so many congratulatory letters. Thank you! I'm very happy!♡♡



☆ The "BASARA" CD book is coming out. I haven't listened to all of it, but it's really cool, and it feels epic.♡♡♡ Check it out!♡ I'm really looking forward to it, too.

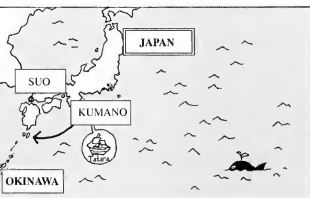
...Once again, there weren't enough pages in the volume for a bonus at the end! I'm sorry!Ⓣ

Stay tuned for volume ⑨!

TAMU

SARASA'S JOURNEY

THE CONTINENT



THE
ISLAND
OF
OKINAWA
NAHA
HARBOR

KANG KANG

026 020 020

KANG

030

030

DR.
BASHO'S
BACK
FROM HIS
VOYAGE!

HEY!

IT'S DR.
BASHO!

IT'S
GOOD
TO BE
HOME.

HAS
EVERYONE
BEEN
WELL?

DR.
BASHO!

YOU'RE
BACK!

WEL-
COME
BACK!

YAY
RAAH
YAY





I WISH...

BUT I'M IN
THE MIDDLE
OF MY
CAMPAIGN.
I'M JUST
STOPPING
BY.

HA,
HA,
HA!

YOU
CAME
TO PICK
ME UP?

I'M
AN
AFTER-
THOUGHT!?



YUNA!

HUP.

YOU'RE
BACK!

MR.
ASATO!



THANKS
FOR
COMING.
I KNOW
YOU'RE
VERY
BUSY.

AH,
PRESIDENT
ASATO.

DR.
BASHO,
YOU
LOOK
WELL.

QTP



YUNA,
YOU
COME
TO VISIT
SOME-
TIME,
TOO.

COME
SEE ME
TONIGHT,
DOCTOR.

I'D LIKE
TO HEAR
YOUR
STORIES
ABOUT
JAPAN.

I WILL,
MR.
ASATO.

I'D HEARD
THIS WAS A
COUNTRY
WITHOUT
A KING...



PRESIDENT...?

HE
MUST
BE THE
HEAD
OF
THIS
COUNTRY.



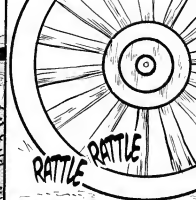
HEY,
DR.
BASHO!

WELCOME
BACK!

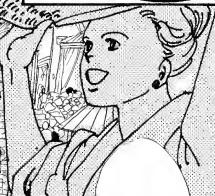
BZZ BZZ

YADDA
YADDA

BZZ BZZ



RATTLE RATTLE



A LIVELY
HARBOR...



WE
JUST
NETTED
SOME
FINE
SQUILLA!

TAKE A
FEW!

DON'T
DRINK
TOO
MUCH,
DOCTOR!

HA
HA
HA

GLUG
GLUG

YADDA
YADDA

THERE
ARE SO
MANY
THINGS
I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
BEFORE!

HO,
HO.

YOU'RE A
FOREIGNER
HERE, TOO.

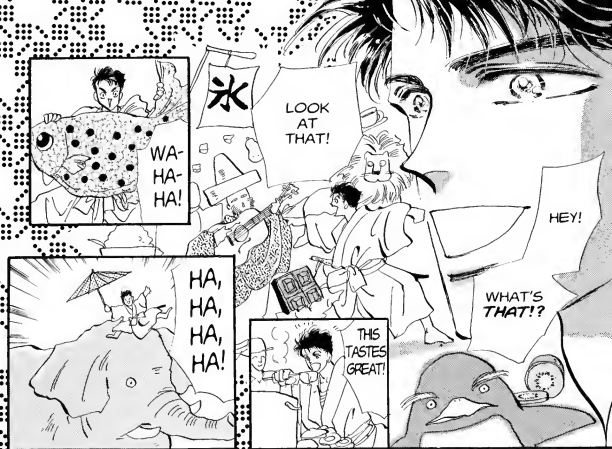
THIS COUNTRY
WAS BUILT ON
BEING THE
MIDDLE-MAN.

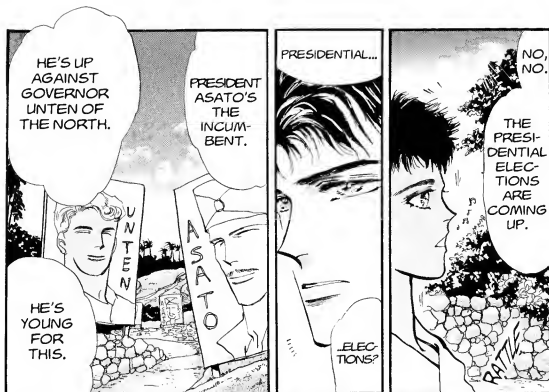
HA
HA

I SEE
A LOT OF
FOREIGNERS
ABOUT...

DO YOU
HAVE
OPEN
BORDERS?









MM-HMM.

GUG

HEY,
OLD
MAN.

WHAT
KIND OF
FIELD IS
THAT?

SUGAR
CANE.

WE
MAKE
SUGAR
FROM
IT.

IT LOOKS
LIKE
PAMPAS
GRASS,
DOESN'T
IT?

THERE IS NO
NEED FOR HIM
TO BE
CHOSEN BY
THE PEOPLE.

HE IS
THE
KING.

HE'S BEEN
THE KING
SINCE HIS
BIRTH.

WHAT
DO
YOU
THINK?

IF IN
SANYO...

THERE
WAS AN
ELECTION...
THE RED
KING--

WOULD
THE
PEOPLE
CHOOSE
HIM?



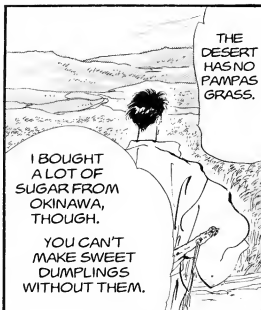
YEAH.

I DON'T
WANT TO
SEE ANY
FOR
AWHILE
THOUGH.



PFFT

YOU
LIKE
DUMP-
LINGS?



THE
DESERT
HAS NO
PAMPAS
GRASS.

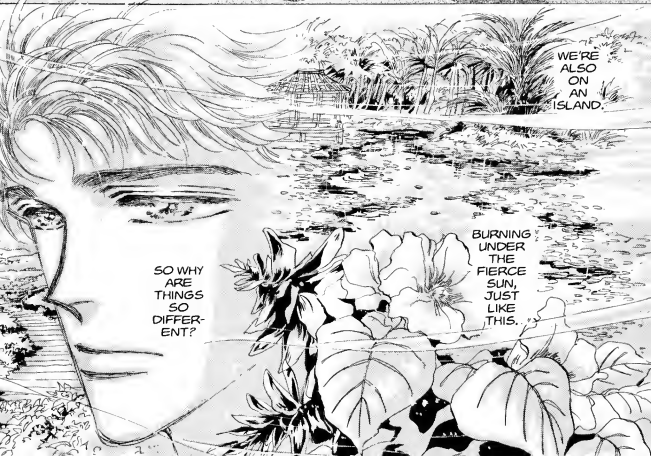
I BOUGHT
A LOT OF
SUGAR FROM
OKINAWA,
THOUGH.

YOU CAN'T
MAKE SWEET
DUMPLINGS
WITHOUT THEM.



THE
DESERT
CITY...

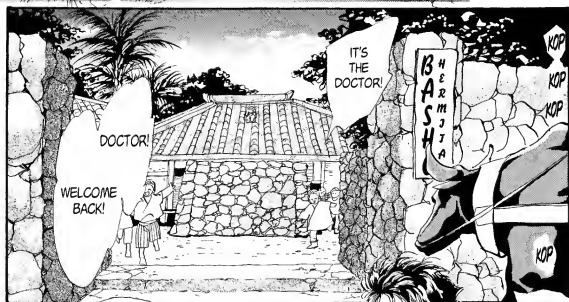
MY
SUO...



WE'RE
ALSO
ON
AN
ISLAND.

SO WHY
ARE
THINGS
SO DIFFER-
ENT?

BURNING
UNDER
THE
FIERCE
SUN,
JUST
LIKE
THIS.





DOCTOR!

WELCOME
BACK.

AND
THE
BATH
IS
READY.

YOUR
FUTONS
HAVE
BEEN
AIRED,

I'VE
CLEANED
UP YOUR
ROOM.

YUNA.

NAKIJIN,
I'M
HOME.

WEL-
COME
BACK.

I'M NOT
DOING
ANYTHING
FOR A
HUSBAND
WHO HARDLY
EVER
COMES
HOME.

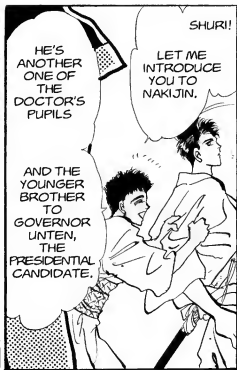
ER... I'M
HOME,
DEAR...

YOU'RE
AS
CONSCIENTIOUS
AS
EVER.

EEL IS
YOUR
FAVORITE,
RIGHT?

I HAVE
SOME
READY
TO
GRILL.

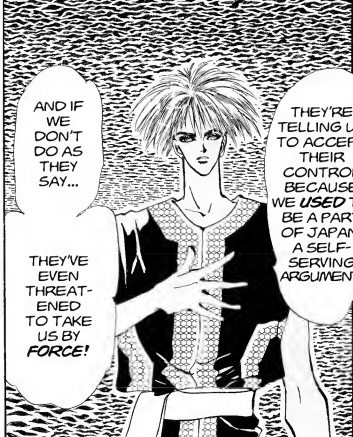
YOU MUST
BE BUSY
HELPING
WITH THE
CAMPAIGN.
YOU
SHOULD'VE
LET MY
WIFE
HANDLE
ALL THAT.





HUH.

LOOKS LIKE
POPS IS
KEEPING
HIMSELF BUSY.



AND IF
WE
DON'T
DO AS
THEY
SAY...

THEY'VE
EVEN
THREAT-
ENED
TO TAKE
US BY
FORCE!

THEY'RE
TELLING US
TO ACCEPT
THEIR
CONTROL
BECAUSE
WE **USED** TO
BE A PART
OF JAPAN.
A SELF-
SERVING
ARGUMENT.



TP

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
KING
UKON'S
THINKING.

BUT
IN MY
OPINION
...



BUT...
THIS IS A
SERIOUS
PROBLEM
RIGHT
NOW.

IF
YOU'RE
NOT, I
APOLO-
GIZE.



NAKI-
JIN!

AREN'T
YOU
BEING
A BIT
RUDE?

THIS
ISN'T
LIKE
YOU.



IT
WOULD
BE
EASY...

...TO
INVADE
AND
CONQUER
THIS
COUNTRY.



I DON'T
SEE ANY
SOLDIERS.

AND
THERE'S
NOT A
SINGLE
FORT.



...GET
YOUR
FOOT
OFF.

...I COULD
TAKE
THIS
PLACE
WITHOUT
EFFORT--

IN LESS
THAN AN
HOUR.

IF I
WERE
KING
...

WE
HAVE
NO
MILI-
TARY.

HA.

I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT.

SO YOU
DON'T
WANT TO
PROTECT
THIS
COUNTRY?

YOU'RE
STEP-
PING
ON
IT.





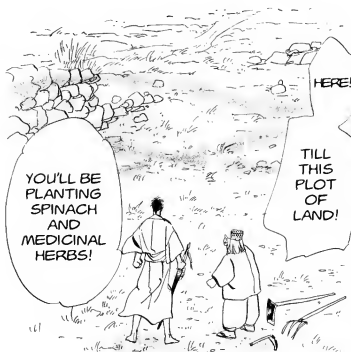


NAKIJIN!
YOU'RE ONE
OF MY BEST
STUDENTS!

I'M
DISAPPOINTED
IN YOU!



I'VE ALREADY
TOLD YOU--
**NO FIGHTING
ON MY
PROPERTY!**



YOU'LL BE
PLANTING
SPINACH
AND
MEDICINAL
HERBS!

HERE!

TILL
THIS
PLOT
OF
LAND!

HONESTLY,
DIDN'T
YOU LEARN
ANYTHING--

KCHAK KCHAK

FROM
THAT
COUP
D'ETAT?



...I'M
SORRY.

LET
ME
GO,
OLD
MAN!

SHURI!
COME
HERE!



YUNA ...

...IS
GOING
TO
MARRY
PRESIDENT
ASATO.



NAKIJIN?

NO.

THEY'RE
JUST
CHILD-
HOOD
FRIENDS.



THAT NAKI...
WHOEVER
THAT
IMPUDENT
FOOL
WAS...

IS HE
YUNA'S
FIANCE?



YOU
SEEM TO
HAVE TOO
MUCH
ENERGY
ON YOUR
HANDS.

TILL!?

WHY
SHOULD
I!?

THINK OF
IT AS
PAYING ME
BACK FOR
HELPING
YOU.



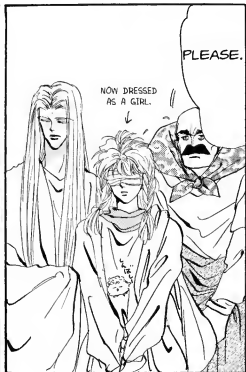
WHAT A
WASTE!

**THAT
OLD
MAN!?**

NOW,
WORK
HARD
UNTIL
DINNER.

DON'T
JUDGE
OTHERS
WITHOUT
KNOWING
THEM.







IT'S BEST
THAT WE
GO NOW.



WE
KNOW.

YOU **DO**!?
HAVE YOU
EVER SAILED
DURING A
TYPHOON?

NO,
BUT...



IT'S
NOT THE
RIGHT
SEASON.

WE
MIGHT RUN
INTO A
TYPHOON.



HUH!?

CHA-
CHA?

REALLY?

SKILL AND
CHARACTER!?

SHE SAID
THAT
ABOUT
ME!?

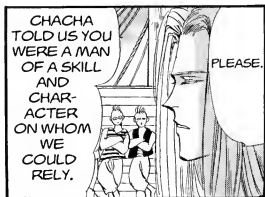


IT'S A BIG
STORM.
I'VE NEVER
SEEN ONE,
THOUGH.

WHAT'S
A
"TIE
FOON"?

DOES IT "TIE"
SOMETHING?

NO.



CHACHA
TOLD US YOU
WERE A MAN
OF A SKILL
AND
CHAR-
ACTER
ON WHOM
WE
COULD
RELY.

PLEASE.





HOLD
STEADY,
BOYS!



...MAKES
NAVI-
GATION
DIFFICULT.

Tokara Islands

Tanaga Island

ALONG
THE
WAY,

THE
CURRENT
AROUND
THE
TOKARA
ISLAND
CHAIN...

IT'LL BE
SMOOTH
SAILING
ONCE
WE RIDE
THIS OUT!

I WON'T TURN
THIS COUNTRY
INTO A
BATTLEFIELD,
AS GOVERNOR
UNTEN
WILL DO!

PRESIDENT
ASATO,
SOUTHERN
CONSERVA-
TIVE PARTY

I HAVE
THE
EXPERI-
ENCE TO
BUILD

A
RELATION-
SHIP
WITH JAPAN
BASED
ON
MUTUAL
RESPECT.

SO YOU
CAN BE
NICE
SOME-
TIMES.

HAVE
SOME
WATER.

GOOD
WORK.

MY
PEOPLE!

THROUGH
TWO TERMS,
FOR EIGHT
YEARS,
I HAVE EARNED
YOUR TRUST.

BONUS TAM-TAM TIME:
A DAY IN THE LIFE
OF SHINBASHI

TAMU.

朝

MORNING: SLEEP



昼

NOON: SLEEP



夜

NIGHT: SLEEP



OH, NO, I
OVERSLEPT!



朝

MORNING: SLEEP

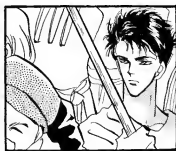


TO PROTECT
OKINAWA'S
INDEPENDENCE,
WE MUST BE
WILLING TO
FIGHT!

"MUTUAL
RESPECT"?

DOES
JAPAN
RESPECT
ASATO
FOR HIS
GROVELING?

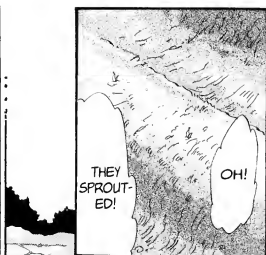
GOVERNOR
UNTEN,
NORTHERN
REFORM
PARTY



IT SEEMS
OKINAWA
ISN'T AS
PRETTY
A
COUNTRY
AS IT
THINKS.

WMP! WMP!

"ELECTION"
IS SUCH
A NOBLE
WORD.
THIS IS JUST
A LYING AND
SLANDERING
CONTEST.







IF THIS
HAPPENS
ALL THE
TIME--

WHY
HAVEN'T
YOU
MADE
CONTIN-
GENCY
PLANS!?

FOOL!



PROBABLY
MAKE A
FENCE
AROUND
THE FIELD.

WHAT'S
HE
GOING
TO DO?

Mr. POMLESS



PULL DOWN
THE SAILS!
THE MAST
WON'T LAST!

AUGH!

CAPTAIN!

COOM

RRK!



**CURSE
THIS
WIND!**

RRG!



ARE
YOU...

ARE
YOU
LAUGH-
ING!?

LAUGH-
ING
AT
ME!?

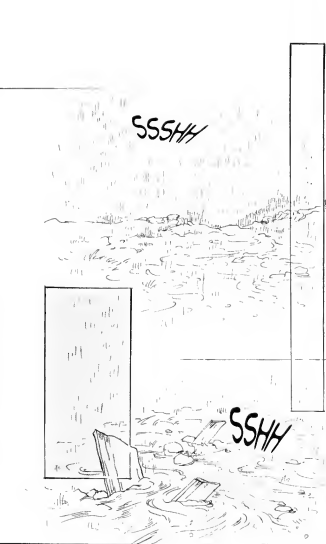
EVERYONE
ON THE
LIFEBOATS!
ABANDON
SHIP!

SARASA!

ZAKI!

NAGI!

SARASA!





IT COMES
SWIFTLY,
BUT GOES
AWAY
JUST AS
FAST.

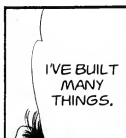


HEY,
YOU
TWO.

THERE'S
A HOT
BATH
WAITING
INSIDE.



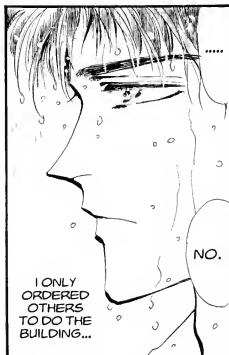
WITH
YOUR
OWN
HANDS?



I'VE BUILT
MANY
THINGS.



I'LL BET
YOU'VE
NEVER
EXPERI-
ENCED
FLOOD
DAMAGE.



I ONLY
ORDERED
OTHERS
TO DO THE
BUILDING...

NO.

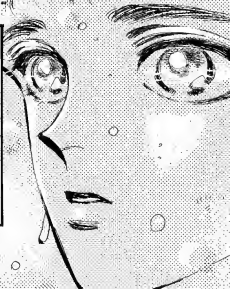
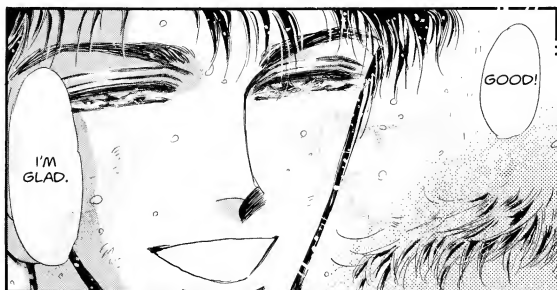
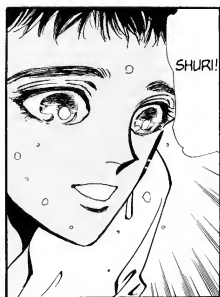


THE
CITY,
THE
STREETS,
THE
AQUE-
DUCT...



HOW
DOES
IT FEEL
TO
HAVE
SOME-
THING
YOU'VE
BUILT
...

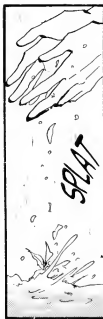
...BE
SWEEPED
AWAY
FOR THE
FIRST
TIME?





WHAT
AM I
DOING?

WHAT AM I
SO HAPPY
ABOUT?
EH, SHURI?



AND
A KING
...

A KING
IS...

...IS...



I AM
A
KING!

SHURI,
THE RED
KING!



I
DIDN'T
SURVIVE...

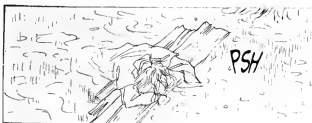
...JUST
SO I
COULD
TILL A
FEW
FIELDS.



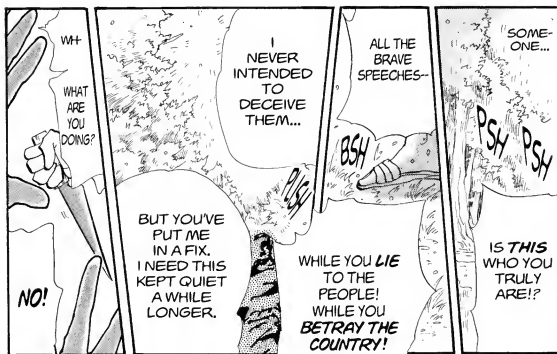
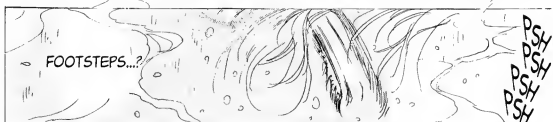
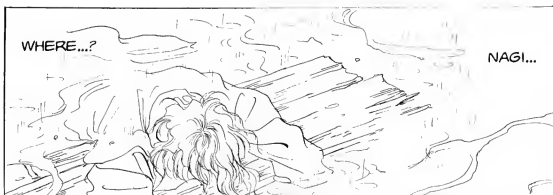
SSSH



SSSH



PSH





WHAT...

GYAAA!



DSHH

WHAT
WAS...?

PLASH



THE
FOOT-
STEPS
ARE GOING
AWAY...

PSH
PSH
PSH

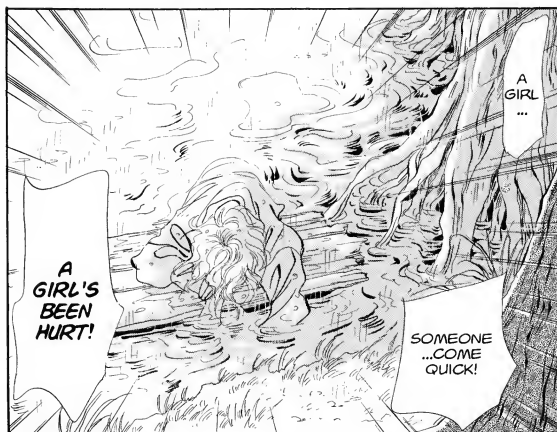
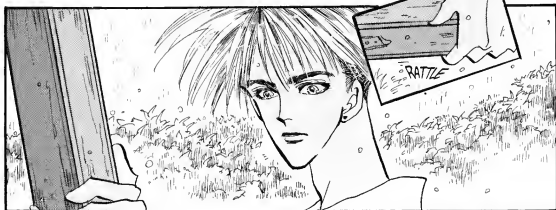


SOME-
ONE...



HELP
ME...

SOME-
ONE...



Recommendations

If you enjoyed *Basara*, please try these other graphic novels:

Chicago

From *Basara*'s creator, Yumi Tamura, *Chicago* is an action-packed short series set in the near future. Capable Rei and her seasoned partner Uozumi are survivors. After being deployed to a half-finished manmade island to search for earthquake victims, their military rescue squad is bombed. Discovering the mysterious forces behind the bombing becomes their personal goal as they join a private rescue force that gathers secretly in a Shinjuku bar called "Chicago."

Banana Fish

Currently running in the anthology *Animerica Extra*, Akimi Yoshida's most famous series is filled with gritty action. When a man is gunned down in the gang-infested back alleys of 1980's New York City, it begins a complicated series of events that causes gang leader Ash to go up against mafia don "Papa" Dino. The series sends Ash and his allies across the country and against political intrigues in search of the truth behind the mysterious and deadly substance "Banana Fish."

Vagabond

One of the best action artists out there, Takehiko Inoue puts his skills to the test in this extraordinary series. Inspired by Eiji Yoshikawa's classic samurai story *Musashi*, *Vagabond* is the tale of an unfocused soldier on the losing side of history. Takezo's initial goal of survival escalates the violence around him, turning him into a homicidal wildman. Through the way of the sword, he must transform himself from brute to saint.

Editor's comments

The game that so engrosses the fathers of *Nachi* and *Hijiri* at the beginning of the book is one any *Shonen Jump* reader should easily recognize. It's the ancient Asian strategy game of Go.

While Hayato seems to use a more Western or Chinese styled bow, *Nachi* and *Hijiri* demonstrate *kyudo* (both o's long), Japanese archery. Japanese bows are much longer than their Western counterparts, and their handles are not located in the center (they're further down). Uniquely, when shooting, the bow swivels in the archer's hand, resulting in the string coming to rest on the outside of the archer's arm, opposite of where it started.

Against Nagi's recommendation, Sarasa soaks in Yunomine hot springs' Tsubo spa, which is famous for its restorative powers—but it's supposed to be used by people with arthritis, neuralgia, skin diseases and gastrointestinal disorders, as well as couples wanting a healthy baby! Located at the Yunotani river basin, it is said to change color seven times every day.

What's that Shinbashi's got as he soaks with Sarasa? It's a sake bottle and cup on a floating tray. Sake can be drunk cold or warm, and sipping a cup while soaking in a hot spring is supposed to be a refined indulgence.

Matsuo Basho (1644–1694), whose name Kaku used as an obtuse joke, is a legendary haiku poet. He is renowned for his use of thought-provoking humor and his ability to deftly elevate simple moments into significance.

The kanji on the cup of tea Chacha has during her scene with "Tatara" is "nin," which can mean endurance as well as spy. It's the same "nin" as in *ninja*, and it's double meaning is appropriate, considering Chacha is recovering after her stint as a spy. The kanji at the street market stall in Okinawa is "kori" (long o), meaning ice. This sign is used to indicate a shaved ice vendor, a popular summertime treat in Japan.

Also known as the mantis shrimp, *squilla*, as mentioned by the Okinawan fishmonger, are a genus of shrimp that are common around Okinawa.

